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JMJ

CHRISTMAS LETTER 2008-2009

Dear Friends and Benefactors,

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus to be born 2008th time and the New Year 2009.

We wish you all the best for Christmas and New Year. The wishes are from all of the children, me (Fr. Antony Xavier), all the staff of Schools, Colleges and Technical Institute. All of us are keeping good health. We wish the same with you and your dear ones.

This year on August 13th 2008, we opened “INDUSTRIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE” for the Handicapped children who have completed their studies in the High Schools and Higher Secondary Schools etc. These children wish to study this training and there are also some who are learning Masonry and other practical trades which are a source of Income for their living. All our students get some jobs or other.

Now we are building the first and the second floors for additional buildings for the Physically Handicapped and the school for the Deaf-Mute. It may be over in one more year's time. We have started these buildings, and we await some source of income from a good benefactor who completed the matriculation school building last year. These 2 buildings are at least 3 times bigger than the matriculation. So we may require a heavy amount of money to complete them. We also expect the special benefactor, and Mr. Joe Foht, the Treasurer of Help The Helpless, Dr. Terrence Coyne, the Vice President, Mr. David Krause, the Secretary and Fr. Robert Altier to visit us and see for themselves the works that are going on here. We not only help The helpless children to educate till the school final, but also we educate them for their living through college education, technical education, teacher training etc etc. Almost all our school students, all the college students get job. That is the greatest satisfaction we could offer to our beloved and generous benefactors.

I think all of you know most of the children we admit are really helpless in many ways. Some of them come with incurable diseases. And so once in a way, there is also casualty. For example, 2 years ago, one of our children Jayaraman Kathiravan died of cancer at his home. Even though we took all precautions and gave all possible treatment in the cancer Institutes and so on and spent quite a sum of money, he died of cancer, which was a great pain to us all. I went for his funeral.

Kannan Selvi intellectually clever, but very very weak in health was admitted in our school and she went through the whole school education passed with flying colors. But unfortunately when she was at her home with her parents, she died of that incurable disease last year and we could not help her further.

Rajeev Gandhi very sturdy and grown up tall young man who was never expected would pass away, died in the month of May 2008 by heart attack, When he was at home for vacation.

These are the 3 children that passed away in the past 20 years of our school service. We cannot at all say that all can be cured, because many of our children are admitted here because they are not able to be cured or do any studies at home. So when such casualties happen, we humbly request our benefactors not to be taken aback. We do our best. We never abandon them. But in spite of our efforts, this happen and even in future if some thing happens like this, we are not culpable. We pray for the souls of our departed children daily as we also pray for the souls of our beloved departed benefactors and their family members.

I am now trying to build a Hospital and start a Nursing School. We have received various government approvals for this project and now are in the planning stage. Our thoughts are that a Hospital will provide for the care of many children, poor people in the surrounding villages, elderly folks that have been abandoned by their families and others in need of medical attention. We will also be able to provide training for our children and others in need of work skills thus providing qualified nurses and medical technicians to our area and other areas.

One of our kind benefactors Dr. Alexander Manning has given us some hope that he would try for funds somewhere and help us to fulfill our dream. If any of you know any other source to complete our project, you may kindly contact Mr. Joe Foht and he will do his best to contact them and do the needful. I find some times, some letters coming from Doctors for their adopted children. We thank them and at the same time we also submit our humble request for the Hospital. I request them also to collaborate with Dr. Alexander Manning and Mr. Joe & Kay Foht, our wonderful, kind and generous treasurers. I thank those very generous benefactors who sometimes send some extra money for assisting us I hope they too will help us. If we run the Nursing College, the Nurses will take care of the Hospital. Nursing College is another big affair!! This is a huge undertaking and we respectfully request your prayers that God will bless this undertaking.

If you know of any institutions that could help fund this project please let our office in Minnesota know and they will follow up. You may contact us via the toll free telephone number **877-762-8857** or email us at **helpthehelpless@yahoo.com**.

Our new Bishop Most. Rev. Antonysamy was consecrated on 9th July 2008 and he visited our schools just the day after his Episcopal Ordination. He is a pious and very accommodating person. He was very much taken up to see all our schools, colleges and technical institute etc. He is my friend for past many years. He told me that he will visit our children as often as possible. He is now in the foreign countries. Mrs. & Mr. Joe Foht and Janet (answers phone for HTH) were in Lacrosse, U.S.A., visiting the new "Our Lady of Guadalupe shrine" and attended Mass where my new Bishop celebrated the Mass. They had a chance to visit with him and his secretary after the Mass. Quite a blessing as no one was aware that my good Bishop was even in the U.S. God is good!

As usual all our school students both in the Physically Handicapped and the Deaf-Mute schools all have passed the Government Examination. 75% of the Physically Handicapped children go to Teacher Training seats in the colleges free of cost, because of their high marks. The Government officers are very proud of our schools. Likewise the First Year trainees of the Teacher Training Institute (D.T.Ed.) have all passed 100%. The result of the second and final year students are awaited.

The Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) that is the teachers who would be handling high schools have all passed 100%. We are also training professors, (M.Ed.) Masters of Education who handle the colleges which are like our colleges, above the arts and science (M.A., M.S.) standard of the colleges, have also passed 100%. These results came just last month. They have all got their jobs in various institutions, schools and colleges, even before they appeared for the final Exams.

We are cultivating our farm. But the rain is not enough. Fortunately water comes from a big Dam. The Dam is almost half full. So far we have harvested the first crop. We do not know, if we will have enough of water from the Dam for the second crop. However, we are prepared with bore wells to irrigate and some how manage the second crop cultivation.

All of you know, I am now running 70, because of my old age I have lot of health problems and still I have also to continue to work long hours. At present I do not know why I am not able to walk (as of 11-21-08 Fr. is now able to walk OK). The right leg gives me a lot of problem. I mention all this that you may say a short prayer for me and that you may not be shocked, if anything happens to me I am prepared to meet the Lord all the time. Of course, as a human being, I too may have to go through purgatory. Please remember me in your prayers. I am not giving you an alarm. But I want to keep you informed of my health, because quite some number of friends and benefactors are concerned about my health all the time. Some of them like Mr. Joe Foht family, Dr. Sunderhaus my eye doctor family, Dr. Terrence Coyne family and some more are always calling me to U.S.A to have my check-up and they, some of them, even do their best to help me in some way or other to recover my health. I thank all of you and in particular those I have mentioned and the volunteers of the Help The Helpless. I always and every day during Holy Mass and other times pray for my loving, kind and generous benefactors. I remember all of you and each and every one of you several times a day especially during the Holy Mass which I love so much. And at this juncture, I thank each and every one of the benefactors who are sending some Mass Intentions which are a great help for me and all my friend Priests who help me in offering Masses for these children and others.

My older brother Irudaya Samy passed away on 8th November and was buried on the same day. He died from Kidney failure. Many priests and Bishops came and participated in the funeral mass and burial. Now my family consists of my sister (who is a Catholic sister) and myself. Please pray for the soul of my brother and all the faithful departed.

I thank and assure in the name of all the children of the schools, the students of the colleges, technical institute, all the staff and everyone, our prayers, our love and our gratitude for every help, you have rendered us in some form or other.

We all love you and thank you. We all wish you a Merry Christmas and the most prosperous New Year 2009.

Yours in Jesus,

Fr. Antony Xavier and all the rest of us.

From the Board and volunteer staff of Help the Helpless

Merry Christ-mas and a blessed New Year to all of our kind benefactors from Fr. Altier, the board, and volunteer staff of Help the Helpless.

God has granted us a rare privilege to be a small part of Fr. Antony's mission in India and we thank all of our benefactors for their love, patience, generosity and prayers in making this mission possible. Please know that we pray for all of you and especially for your special needs.